



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST COALITION

## GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE

July 31, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Three years ago you issued Executive Order 13340 to establish the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration of National Significance. Both efforts were designed to provide more systematic collaboration and better integration of effort in the environmental restoration and management programs in the Great Lakes. We have been impressed with the commitment by our region's leaders to the collaboration process, but we are disappointed that since the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy Report was released, agency efforts and enthusiasm for implementing the Executive Order have waned. Although the Federal agencies regularly meet, restoration progress has been inadequate. We also are concerned that coordination between the Federal agencies with state, tribal, local and other partners remains inconsistent at best and non-existent at worst. In fact, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration has not brought all of its stakeholders together since the Strategy was released in December of 2005.

The Great Lakes needs strong leadership to ensure that restoration priorities are being implemented. We urge you to provide adequate resources to implement restoration priorities. Also, we urge you to ensure that Federal agencies are coordinating their efforts better and consulting with the Great Lakes states, tribes, localities and citizens so we can protect what you have called a national treasure – our Great Lakes.

Great Lakes restoration is a priority for our region, and we are committed to supporting efforts that will result in greater coordination and collaboration with all stakeholders that will address the nationally significant environmental and natural resource issues involving the Great Lakes. We look forward to working with you to make our region's vision a reality.

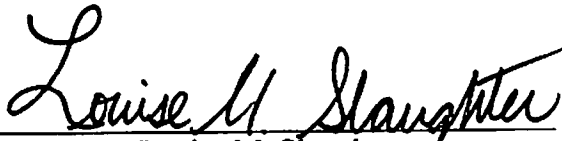
Sincerely,

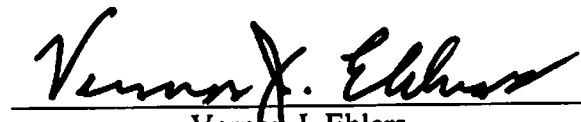
George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator


Carl Levin  
United States Senator

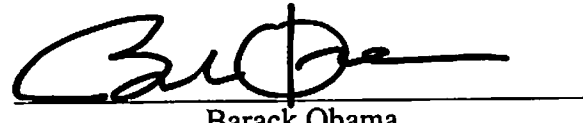
John Dingell  
Member of Congress


Mark Kirk  
Member of Congress


  
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

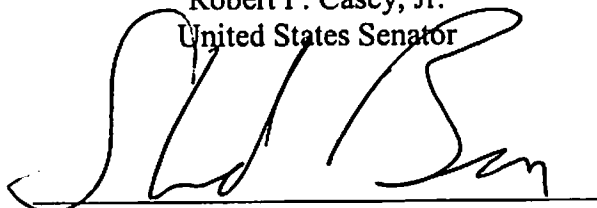
  
Vernon J. Ehlers  
Member of Congress

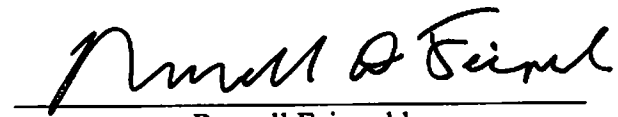
  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator


  
Barack Obama  
United States Senator


  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Norm Coleman  
United States Senator

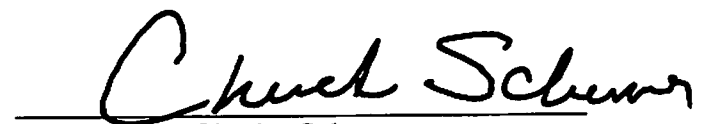
  
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator


  
Russell Feingold  
United States Senator

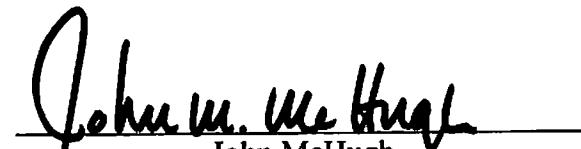
  
Dick Durbin  
United States Senator

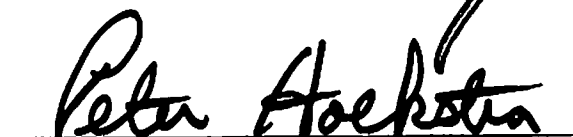
  
Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senator

  
Herb Kohl  
United States Senator

  
Charles Schumer  
United States Senator

  
David Obey  
Member of Congress

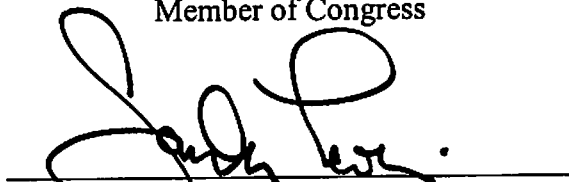
  
John McHugh  
Member of Congress

  
Peter Hoekstra  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



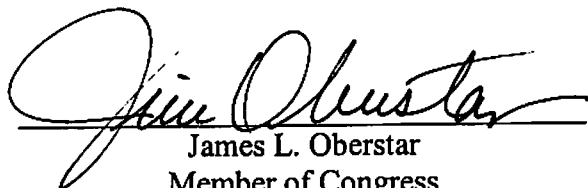
Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



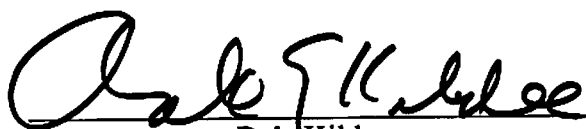
Candice Miller  
Member of Congress



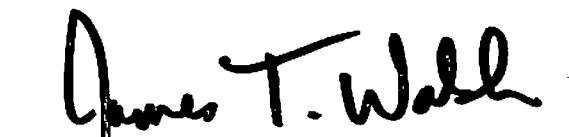
James L. Oberstar  
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Thomas Petri  
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress



James Walsh  
Member of Congress



Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



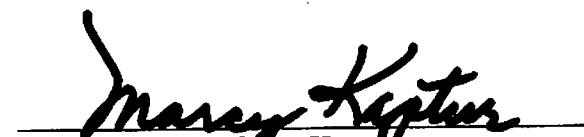
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



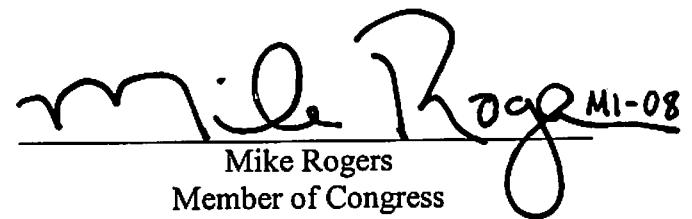
John Conyers  
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



MI-08  
Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress



Evan Bayh  
United States Senator